

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 - 8 (Cancelled)

Claim 9 (New): A mask covering at least the nose and mouth of a wearer, said mask comprised substantially of filtering media for filtering air to the wearer, said mask having an area approximately over the mouth of the wearer that can be opened and closed at will without removing the mask, said area being constructed such that it opens when a device is inserted into the area and which closes when the device is removed therefrom.

Claim 10 (New): The mask according to claim 9 wherein the area that can be opened and closed at will without removing the mask is selected from the group consisting of a flap over a hole or aperture, a detachable patch over a hole or aperture, and an aperture or hole which is self-opening and self-closing.

Claim 11 (New): The mask according to claim 10 wherein the area that can be opened or closed at will comprises a hole or aperture covered with touching or overlapping pieces of material.

Claim 12 (New): The mask according to claim 10 wherein the area that can be opened and closed at will comprises a hole or aperture covered with a flap attached to the mask.

Claim 13 (New): The mask according to claim 10 wherein the area that can be opened and closed at will is formed of a self-closing material over a hole or aperture.

Claim 14 (New): The mask according to claim 9 further comprising attachments to maintain the mask in place on a wearer.

Claim 15 (New): The mask according to claim 9 wherein the area that can be opened and closed at will comprises a hole or aperture which is covered by a removable patch which can be re-affixed to the mask.

Claim 16 (New): The mask according to claim 9 which substantially covers the wearer's head.

Claim 17 (New): The mask according to claim 9 which is made of a flexible material.

Claim 18 (New): The mask according to claim 9 wherein the aperture or hole is self-opening and self-closing.